

Remarks

This Amendment and Reply should be entered after final because it places the claims in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 4 are pending in the application, with 1 and 4 being the independent claims. No new matter has been entered by any amendments.

Based on the above amendment and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Provisional Nonstatutory Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1 and 4 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting for allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1 and 3 of U.S. Patent Application 6,781,674.

Although Applicants disagree with this rejection, Applicants are submitting a Terminal Disclaimer concurrently herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

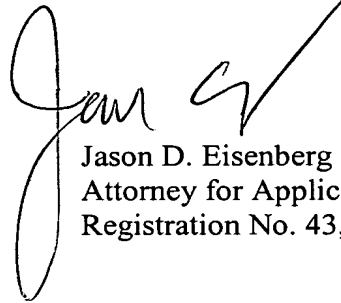
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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